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plans during the war, but the council has already made recommendations which, if adopted, will, it believes, secure that all that is practicable in existing circumstances shall be done.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AN endowment of \$70,000, to create the "Howison Foundation," has been given to the University of California by George Holmes Howison, professor of philosophy, emeritus, in the University of California, and Lois Caswell Howison, his wife. Subject to an annuity during their lifetime, the endowment is to maintain the Howison Traveling Fellowship, of \$1,200 to \$1,500 a year, \$600 a year to constitute the Lois Caswell Fund for the Dean of Women to aid deserving women students, and three or four Anne Sampson scholarships or fellowships, in honor of Mrs. Howison's mother, for women students in English literature and criticism.

DR. ALICE ROHDE has been appointed instructor in research medicine in the George Williams Hooper Foundation for Medical Research of the University of California. A graduate of the University of Chicago of 1903 and of Johns Hopkins Medical School of 1910, Dr. Rohde has had special training in research medicine under Professor Walter Jones and Professor J. J. Abel at the Johns Hopkins University and under Dr. Emil Fischer at Berlin.

DR. JOSEPH H. GROSSMAN, of Cleveland, has been appointed lecturer on diagnosis of tuberculosis in the school for applied social sciences of Western Reserve University.

At the last meeting of the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology the following assistant professors were promoted to be associate professors: Daniel F. Comstock, theoretical physics; George L. Hosmer, topographical surveying; C. L. E. Moore, mathematics; Ellwood B. Spear, inorganic chemistry; William E. Wickenden, electrical engineering. The following instructors were made assistant professors: James M. Barker, structural engineering; Ralph G. Hudson and Waldo V. Lyon, electrical engineering, Earl B.

Millard, theoretical chemistry; Thomas H. Huff, aeronautical engineering.

MR. T. E. GORDON has been appointed professor of surgery in Trinity College, Dublin, in succession to Professor E. H. Taylor.

PROFESSOR J. J. VAN LOGHEM has been appointed to the newly founded chair of tropical hygiene in the University of Amsterdam.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### AMBLYSTOMA NOT AMBYSTOMA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In a letter printed in SCIENCE for June 30, 1916 (43: 929), Dr. M. W. Lyon, Jr., presents and defends the thesis, "*Ambystoma* not *Amblystoma*." If so, the spotted salamander has another spot on his name. *Ambystoma* is a dark saying. Dr. Lyon refers to the original paper of the author, Tschudi, 1839 (Scudder gives 1838), and says that the name is "written by him *Ambystoma* in four different places in his work, and only in that manner." He adds: "The derivation of the word is not given by him, and there is nothing to indicate that he intended *Amblystoma* and made a lapsus calami."

But outside of Tschudi's print, there is something to indicate that he intended *Amblystoma*, and made a lapsus of some sort; namely, the fact that *Ambystoma* has no assignable meaning in any known language, while *Amblystoma* has an assignable meaning in the language of science—that European or cosmopolitan Latin which has supplied the main vocabulary of science, and will probably supply it for ages to come; being, like the rustic's indefluent river, *in omne volubilis aevum*.

In this voluble vocabulary *Amblystoma*, or the adjective latent behind this name, means "having a blunt mouth." In form and meaning it is parallel to *Amblystomus*, the name of a genus of beetles, and to *Amblyrhynchus*, the name of a genus of lizards—which are cousins, once removed, of salamanders. These are but three of a long string of zoologic names beginning with *Ambly*-. But *Ambystoma* stands alone, though it appeared in the same decade with most of the others.

Whether *Amblystoma*, with the sense "having a blunt mouth," is an accurate or a suita-